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Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 OIC-04

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

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---------- 023683
R 181820Z OCT 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION GENEVA
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECLA, UN, CI, EGEN
SUBJECT: WASHINGTON VISIT OF ECLA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

REF: USUN 3774 (NOTAL)

1. ENRIQUE IGLESIAS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF UN'S ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA (ECLA) SPENT BUSY DAY OCT. 11 IN DEPARTMENT MEETING WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS. IGLESIAS' COMMENTS OUTLINED THE PROGRESS HE HAS MADE TOWARD REVIVING ECLA, WHICH IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN LEAST EFFECTIVE OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS AND DEMONSTRATED HIS OWN ABILITY AND PERSONAL DYNAMISM.

2. SOME OF IGLESIAS' COMMENTS ON INTERNAL CHILEAN DEVELOP-MENTS DUPLICATED THOSE IN REFTEL. FOLLOWING SUMMARY COVERS OTHER POINTS MADE DURING VISIT:

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(A) GOC-ECLA RELATIONS: DESPITE HIS INITIAL CONCERN ABOUT

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LONG RUN STATUS OF UN REGIONAL OFFICES IN SANTIAGO FOLLOW-
ING MILITARY COUP, IGLESIAS IS NOW MORE OPTIMISTIC. IN
FACT GOC FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD SYG WALDHEIM AND IGLESIAS
IN MEETING OCT. 8 THAT CHILE WELCOMED UN PRESENCE AND ECLA
IN PARTICULAR. IGLESIAS DOES BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THERE MAY
BE PROBLEMS IN CONNECTION WITH CUBAN AND MEXICAN PARTICIPA-
TION IN ECLA ACTIVITIES IN SANTIAGO. IF SO, HE WILL USE
ALTERNATE LA SITES FOR SOME MEETINGS.

(B) WORK PROGRAM: THIS HAS BEEN MAJOR AREA OF IGLESIAS'
ACTIVITIES SINCE HE ASSUMED OFFICE SOME 18 MONTHS AGO. HE
HAS SUCCESSFULLY REFOCUSED WORK PROGRAM BY REDUCING TOTAL
OF 140 PROJECTS TO 40. THESE ARE CONCENTRATED IN FOUR
AREAS: (A) STUDIES RELATED TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOP-
MENT (THE TRADITIONAL AREA OF ECLA CONCENTRATION); (B)
EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS (ASSISTING LATIN AMERICAN
MEMBERS IN ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS ON WORLD LEVEL); (C)
SECTORAL PROJECTS, AGRICULTURE, POPULATION, ENVIRONMENT,
ETC. (IGLESIAS WANTS REGIONAL COMMISSIONS INVOLVED IN PRE-
PARATIONS FOR WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE); AND (D) INFORMATION
EXCHANGE. IGLESIAS AGREED ECLA WOULD BENEFIT FROM
COMMITTEE STRUCTURE SIMILAR TO ECAFE. WE PROMISED TO GIVE
HIM KEY PAPERS RELATED TO CURRENT ECAFE RATIONALIZATION
STUDY. HE WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN OUR SUGGESTION THAT
PERHAPS REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS COULD BECOME EXECUT-
ING AGENTS FOR CERTAIN REGIONAL UNDP PROJECTS. HE
REPORTED ECLA WILL HOLD REGIONAL POPULATION CONFERENCE IN
APRIL OR MAY IN SAN JOSE.

(C) INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM: ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING
DAY IGLESIAS SPOKE OF ECLA'S LONG RANGE PLACE IN INTER-
AMERICAN SYSTEM AND DESIRE TO COOPERATE WITH OAS. CLEARLY
AMBITIOUS FOR LARGER ECLA ROLE, HE BELIEVES, WITH COMPLE-
TION OF SOME RESTRUCTURING OF ECLA AND ITS WORK PROGRAM,
HE WILL BE ABLE ESTABLISH NEW STRONGER RELATIONSHIP WITH
OAS. IGLESIAS THINKS UN'S REVIEW AND APPRAISAL PROJECT
IS ONE OF MORE IMPORTANT ONES FOR REGIONAL COMMISSIONS
AND WANTS TO COMBINE THAT UNDERTAKING WITH CIAP COUNTRY-BY-
COUNTRY REVIEW FOR LATIN AMERICA. IGLESIAS ALSO VERY
ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT GROWING TIES BETWEEN ECLA AND CANADA.
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(D) ECLA-ILPES-CELADE RELATIONSHIP: IGLESIAS IS CONVINCED
TIME HAS COME TO SIMPLIFY UN ORGANIZATION IN SANTIAGO BY
COMBINING THESE THREE RELATED AGENCIES UNDER HIS DIRECTION.
IGLESIAS SEEMED, HOWEVER, UNSURE OF HOW TO PROCEED TO
ACCOMPLISH THAT AIM. WE GAVE HIM SOME INITIAL THOUGHTS ON
SUBJECT AND WILL SUBMIT TO SANTIAGO AND USUN SOME SUGGES-
TIONS ON THIS PROPOSAL.

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(E) ECLA BRANCHES: WHILE CONSOLIDATING ABOVE ORGANIZATIONS IN SANTIAGO, IGLESIAS WANTS AT SAME TIME TO SHIFT SOME ACTIVITIES FROM THERE TO ECLA'S SIX BRANCH OFFICES. HE IS CERTAIN HE WILL BE ABLE DEMONSTRATE SAVINGS IN COMBINATION OF THESE TWO ACTIONS.

3. FOR SANTIAGO: RE YOUR 4845, ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH HAD AGREED TO SEE IGLESIAS, BUT HAD TO CANCEL. HE DID, HOWEVER, COME BY BRIEFLY TO MEET IGLESIAS. KISSINGER

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